

## **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1 – 21 are pending.

Claims 1 – 15 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting. Claims 16 - 21 stand allowed.

## **REMARKS**

### **Rejection of Claims 1 – 15**

Claims 1 – 15 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting in view of claims 1 – 15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,639,158.

The Examiner has stated that although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because despite a slight difference in wording, the claims appear to be of similar scope since all that has been done is the addition or deletion of what appear to be trivial limitations and superfluous language. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the foregoing characterization of the differences in claim language.

In response, Applicant has submitted the accompanying terminal disclaimer and fee therefor.

## **CONCLUSION**

Wherefore, Applicant believes he has addressed all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.